IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An image data processing device for processing an input image content data to produce an output image content data, comprising:

a detector for detecting a permission limiting watermark from the input image content data; and

a controller for controlling transferring and blocking of the input image content data such that the output image content data is produced from the input image content data a limited number of times when the permission limiting watermark is detected.

2. (Original) The image data processing device according to claim 1, wherein the limited number of times is determined by the permission limiting watermark.

3. (Original) The image data processing device according to claim 2, wherein the input image content data is inputted when a copy is performed.

4. (Original) The image data processing device according to claim 3, wherein the permission limiting watermark is a copy-once watermark indicating that a copy is permitted only once.

5. (Currently Amended) The image data processing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an additional watermark inserter for inserting an ~~addition~~ additional watermark in the input image content data to produce the output image content data when the copy is performed.

6. (Original) The image data processing device according to claim 5, wherein the controller comprises:

an additional watermark detector for detecting the additional watermark from the input image content data,

wherein, when the additional watermark is detected from the input image content data, the controller blocks the transfer of the input image content data so as not to produce the output image content data.

7. (Original) The image data processing device according to claim 5, wherein the additional watermark inserter blocks the transfer of the input image content data under control of the controller when the additional watermark is detected.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An image~~ A data processing device for processing an input ~~image~~ content data to produce an output ~~image~~ content data, comprising:

a first detector for detecting a permission limiting watermark from the input ~~image~~ content data;

a second detector for detecting an additional watermark from the input ~~image~~ content data, wherein the additional watermark is inserted when an original ~~image~~ content is copied; and

a controller for producing the output ~~image~~ content data from the input ~~image~~ content data when the permission limiting watermark and the additional watermark are both detected and prohibiting production of the output ~~image~~ content data when the permission limiting watermark is detected and the additional watermark is not detected.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~image~~ data processing device according to claim 8, wherein the input ~~image~~ content data is inputted when playback is performed.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The image data processing device according to claim 8, further comprising:~~ A data processing device for processing an input content data to produce an output content data, comprising:

a first detector for detecting a permission limiting watermark from the input content data;

a second detector for detecting an additional watermark from the input content data, wherein the additional watermark is inserted when an original content is copied; and

a controller for producing the output content data from the input content data when the permission limiting watermark and the additional watermark are both detected and prohibiting production of the output content data when the permission limiting watermark is detected and the additional watermark is not detected; and

a third detector for detecting a type of a medium storing the input ~~image~~ content data,

wherein,

when the medium is writable, the controller produces the output ~~image~~ content data from the input ~~image~~ content data when the permission limiting watermark and the additional watermark are both detected and prohibits production of the output ~~image~~ content data when the permission limiting watermark is detected and the additional watermark is not detected,

when the medium is not writable, the controller unconditionally produces the output ~~image~~ content data from the input ~~image~~ content data.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~image~~ data processing device according to claim 1, wherein the input ~~image~~ content data is compressed ~~image~~ data conforming to MPEG standard.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~image~~ data processing device according to claim 8, wherein the input ~~image~~ content data is compressed ~~image~~ data conforming to MPEG standard.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~image~~ data processing device according to claim 1, wherein the input ~~image~~ content data is digital ~~image~~ data corresponding to an analog composite signal.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~image~~ data processing device according to claim 8, wherein the input ~~image~~ content data is digital ~~image~~ data corresponding to an analog composite signal.

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The playback permission method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:~~ A playback permission method comprising the steps of:

determining whether a permission limiting watermark is embedded in content data stored in a medium;

determining whether an additional watermark is embedded in the content data, wherein the additional watermark is inserted when the content data is copied;

detecting a type of a medium storing the ~~image~~ content;

when the medium is writable,

permitting playback of the ~~image~~ content when the permission limiting watermark and the additional watermark are both detected; and

prohibiting playback of the ~~image~~ content when the permission limiting watermark is detected and the additional watermark is not detected; and

when the medium is not writable, unconditionally permitting playback of the ~~image~~ content.